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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/802,863	03/18/2004	Takahiro Masuda	1046.1317	7728
21171 7590 10/02/2007 STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER MAHMOOD, REZWANUL	
			ART UNIT 2164	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/02/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/802,863

Applicant(s)

MASUDA ET AL.

Examiner

Rezwanul Mahmood

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-8,10-12 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-8,10-12 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09/13/2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1, 6, 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. In claim 1 lines 12-14, the phrase "wherein the adding unit adding the additional information of which accepted the selection by the additional information selection unit, in the case where the search unit has searched out plural pieces of additional information" is indefinite.

5. In claim 6 lines 13-14, the phrase "wherein the adding involves adding the additional information of which accepted the selection in the accepting, in the case of having searched out plural pieces of additional information" is indefinite.

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6. In claim 10 lines 13-14, the phrase "wherein the adding involves adding the additional information of which accepted the selection in the accepting, in the case of having searched out plural pieces of additional information" is indefinite.

7. In claim 14, lines 13-14, the phrase "wherein the adding involves adding the additional information of which accepted the selection in the accepting, in the case of having searched out plural pieces of additional information" is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotou (US Patent 7,085,629) in view of Tada (US Patent 7,080,099).

10. With respect to claim 1, Gotou discloses an electronic mail device comprising:
a mail accepting unit accepting an input of an electronic mail as a processing object (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-12; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

a keyword extraction unit obtaining a keyword from the electronic mail (Gotou: Column 2, lines 12-14; Column 6, lines 59-67; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

a search unit searching for additional information corresponding to the keyword from an additional candidate storage unit stored with candidates for the additional

information to the mail previously processed (Gotou: Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 6, lines 38-67; Column 7, lines 1-6; Figures 4A-4C and 12);

an additional information selection unit accepting, in a case where the search unit has searched out plural pieces of additional information, a selection, from a list of the plural pieces of additional information (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-21; Column 3, lines 52-67; Column 7, lines 11-28; Figures 11-12);

Gotou does not explicitly disclose wherein the list has been sorted on a basis of a history of mails previously transmitted or received.

However, Tada discloses sorting a list on a basis of a history of mails previously transmitted or received (Tada: Column 3, lines 8-26).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the teachings of Tada with the teachings of Gotou to select from a list additional information wherein the list has been sorted out on a basis of history of mails previously transmitted or received for a method that allows attachment documents to be looked up efficiently when documents are created through electronic mail exchanges between multiple users (Tada: Column 2, lines 67, Column 3, lines 1-2).

Gotou in view of Tada discloses:

an adding unit adding the searched additional information to the electronic mail as the processing object, wherein the adding unit adding the additional information of which accepted the selection by the additional information selection unit, in the case where the search unit has searched out plural pieces of additional information (Gotou:

Column 2, lines 14-20; Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 7, lines 10-28; Figures 4A-4C and 12).

11. With respect to claim 2, Gotou in view of Tada discloses an electronic mail device according to claim 1, wherein the keyword extracting unit extracts, as a keyword, information about an existing area of a sender or about a pre-registered recipient (Gotou: Column 10, lines 55-67; Column 11, lines 16-26; Figures 4A-4C, 9 and 12).

12. Claims 3, 5-8, 10-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gotou in view of Tada as applied to claims 1-2 above, and further in view of Rast (US Publication 2001/0034769).

13. With respect to claim 3, Gotou in view of Tada discloses an electronic mail device according to claim 1,

However, Gotou or Tada does not explicitly disclose wherein the keyword extraction unit extracts, as a keyword, a date and time recorded in relative time since a date and time of transmission, an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time.

The Rast reference, however, discloses claimed extracting a date and time recorded in relative time since a date and time of transmission, an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time (Rast: Paragraph 10, lines 6-9; Figure 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the teachings of Rast with the teachings of Gotou and Tada to have the keyword extraction unit extracting a date and time for the benefit of providing the delivery of email messages at a specific time (Rast: Paragraph 23, lines 1-2).

14. With respect to claim 5, Gotou in view of Tada and in further view of Rast discloses an electronic mail device according to any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein when receiving the electronic mail from a source terminal and transmitting the mail to a destination terminal, the additional information is added to the electronic mail (Gotou: Column 2, lines 3-21; Figures 4A-4C and 12).

15. With respect to claim 6, Gotou in view of Tada and in further view of Rast discloses a recording medium recorded with an information adding program for a n electronic mail, for making a computer execute:

accepting an input of an electronic mail as a processing object (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-12; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

obtaining a keyword from the electronic mail (Gotou: Column 2, lines 12-14; Column 6, lines 59-67; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

searching for additional information corresponding to the keyword from an additional candidate storage unit stored with candidates for the additional information to the mail previously processed (Gotou: Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 6, lines 38-67;

Column 7, lines 1-6; Figures 4A-4C and 12);

accepting, in a case of having searched out plural pieces of additional information in the searching for the additional information, a selection, from a list of the plural pieces of additional information, wherein the list has been sorted on a basis of a history of mails previously transmitted or received (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-21; Column 3, lines 52-67; Column 7, lines 11-28; Figures 11-12; Tada: Column 3, lines 8-26); and

adding the searched additional information to the electronic mail as the processing object, wherein the adding involves adding the additional information of which accepted the selection in the accepting, in the case of having searched out plural pieces of additional information (Gotou: Column 2, lines 14-20; Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 7, lines 10-28; Figures 4A-4C and 12).

16. With respect to claim 7, Gotou in view of Tada and in further view of Rast discloses a recording medium recorded with an information adding program for an electronic mail according to claim 6, wherein the obtaining the keyword involves extracting, as a keyword, information about an existing area of a sender or about a pre-registered recipient (Gotou: Column 10, lines 55-67; Column 11, lines 16-26; Figures 4A-4C, 9 and 12).

17. With respect to claim 8, Gotou in view of Tada and in further view of Rast discloses a recording medium with an information adding program for an electronic mail

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according to claim 6, wherein the obtaining the keyword involves extracting, as a keyword, a date and time recorded in relative time since a date and time of transmission, an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time (Rast: Paragraph 10, lines 6-9; Figure 2).

18. With respect to claim 10, Gotou in view of Tada and in further view of Rast discloses an information adding method for an electronic mail by which an electronic mail device executes:

accepting an input of an electronic mail as a processing object (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-12; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

obtaining a keyword from the electronic mail (Gotou: Column 2, lines 12-14; Column 6, lines 59-67; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

searching for additional information corresponding to the keyword from an additional candidate storage unit stored with candidates for the additional information to the mail, processed in the past (Gotou: Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 6, lines 38-67; Column 7, lines 1-6; Figures 4A-4C and 12);

accepting, in a case of having searched out plural pieces of additional information in the searching for the additional information, a selection, from a list of the plural pieces of the additional information, wherein the list has been sorted on a basis of a history of mails previously transmitted or received (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-21; Column 3, lines 52-67; Column 7, lines 11-28; Figures 11-12; Tada: Column 3, lines 8-26); and

adding the searched additional information to the electronic mail as the processing object, wherein the adding involves adding the additional information of which accepted the selection in the accepting, in the case of having searched out plural pieces of additional information (Gotou: Column 2, lines 14-20; Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 7, lines 10-28; Figures 4A-4C and 12).

19. With respect to claim 11, Gotou in view of Tada and in further view of Rast discloses an information adding method for an electronic mail according to claim 10, wherein the obtaining the keyword involves extracting, as a keyword, information about an existing area of a sender or about a pre-registered recipient (Gotou: Column 10, lines 55-67; Column 11, lines 16-26; Figures 4A-4C, 9 and 12).

20. With respect to claim 12, Gotou in view of Tada and in further view of Rast discloses an information adding method for an electronic mail according to claim 10, wherein the obtaining the keyword involves extracting, as a keyword, a date and time recorded in relative time since a date and time of transmission, an absolute date and time obtained from the present date and time, or the present date and time (Rast: Paragraph 10, lines 6-9; Figure 2).

21. With respect to claim 14, Gotou in view of Tada and in further view of Rast discloses an information adding program for an electronic mail, for making a computer execute:

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accepting an input of an electronic mail as a processing object (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-12; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

obtaining a keyword from the electronic mail (Gotou: Column 2, lines 12-14; Column 6, lines 59-67; Figure 4A; Figure 12);

searching for additional information corresponding to the keyword from an additional candidate storage unit stored with candidates for the additional information to the mail processed in the past (Gotou: Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 6, lines 38-67; Column 7, lines 1-6; Figures 4A-4C and 12);

accepting, in a case of having searched out plural pieces of additional information in the searching for the additional information, a selection, from a list of the plural pieces of additional information, wherein the list has been sorted on a basis of a history of mails previously transmitted or received (Gotou: Column 2, lines 11-21; Column 3, lines 52-67; Column 7, lines 11-28; Figures 11-12; Tada: Column 3, lines 8-26); and

adding the searched additional information to the electronic mail as the processing object, wherein the adding involves adding the additional information of which accepted the selection in the accepting, in the case of having searched out plural pieces of additional information (Gotou: Column 2, lines 14-20; Column 5, lines 36-53; Column 7, lines 10-28; Figures 4A-4C and 12).

Remarks

22. Gotou discloses in Column 2 lines 14-20, Column 5 lines 36-53, Column 7 lines

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10-28, Figures 4A-4C and 12 an adding unit adding additional information which was accepted by a selection unit for additional information and where a search unit searched for the additional information.

Conclusion


23. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Ilcisin reference (US Publication 2002/0044067) teaches about message delivery based on geographical and temporal parameters. The Tuvey reference (US Publication 2002/0019849) teaches about an information communication system. The Yamamoto reference (US Publication 2005/0165739) teaches about extracting words from mail documents that correspond to the user's interest.

Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rezwanul Mahmood whose telephone number is (571)272-5625. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 10 A.M. - 5 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571)272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Rezwanul Mahmood
Examiner
Art Unit 2164

September 27, 2007


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER